

**For Immediate Release
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**Contact: Andrea Ewin Turner
(615) 532-5645 (office)
(615) 418-3703 (cell)**

DCS Reports Child Fatality Overnight at Wilder Youth Development Center

NASHVILLE, Tenn. - The Tennessee Department of Children's Services reports the fatality of a male youth at the John S. Wilder Youth Development Center in Somerville. While there was nothing to suggest the youth was a potential suicide threat, the death is being investigated as an apparent suicide.

DCS is working collaboratively with local law enforcement officials as well as the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. The department is also conducting an internal affairs investigation. The youth's name is not being released until all family members are notified. The youth's residence is in Davidson County.

According to Wilder YDC staff, the youth was found not breathing and without a pulse at approximately 11:15 p.m., on October 10. Center medical personnel immediately began administering CPR and called 911 for assistance. The local emergency medical team arrived and also provided treatment. The youth never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead at 12:03 a.m., on October 11.

The Department is awaiting results of autopsy and toxicology reports from the medical examiner's office. DCS's internal affairs investigation is expected to be complete within 30 days.

John S. Wilder Youth Development Center is located at 13870 Highway 59 in Somerville, in Fayette County, and has capacity for 144 male youths, ages 12 to 19. Currently, there are 103 youths in residence. Fully accredited by the American Correctional Association, the center serves youths primarily from West Tennessee who have been adjudicated delinquent.

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